

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 L-03 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 CCO-00

OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03 OC-06 COME-00 DRC-01 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /122 W

----- 023050

R 040800Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5837

INFO NASA HEADQUARTERS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TANANARIVE 1688/1

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, MA, US

SUBJ: NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: A) STATE 235709; B) TANANARIVE 1651;

C) TANANARIVE 1634; D) STATE 230865.

BEGIN SUMMARY: POINT-TO-POINT COMMUNICATIONS PAYMENT ISSUE DROPPED. MALAGASY DEL SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN US COMPROMISE POSITION THAT SYMBOLIC PAYMENT FOR LAND USE DURING PREVIOUS YEARS AND REASONABLE RENT FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE CALENDAR YEARS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. IT WILL REPORT OFFICIAL GOMR REACTION AT NEXT SESSION DEC 10. EMBASSY SUSPECTS GOMR WILL ACCEPT PRINCIPLE OF USG PROPOSAL AND THAT HAGGLING OVER AMOUNT OF SYMBOLIC PAYMENT AND WHAT RENT IS CONSIDERED "REASONABLE" WILL BE NEXT STEP. THEREFORE, SEE NO REASON SOFTEN USG POSITION, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. END SUMMARY.

1. NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED ON SCHEDKGE DEC 3. SAME PERSONS ATTENDED FOR MALAGASY SIDE (REF C) WITH EXCEPTION RAVELONAHINA WHO ABSENT. BARBOUR JOINTED AMERICAN TEAM AS RAPPORTEUR-INTERPRETER.

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2. FONMIN REP SAID HE ASSUMED CHARGE HAD REFERRED LAST WEEK'S

DISCUSSION TO USG AND ASKED LATTER TO MAKE FIRST STATEMENT. CHARGE, DRAWING ON REFTELS A AND B, FIRST OUTLINED REASONS WHY USG INSISTS LUMP-SUM FEE FOR USE OF NASA-OPERATED POINT-TO-POINT COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUIT ACCOMPLISHED TO SATISFACTION CLAUSE (3)B OF 1967 AGREEMENT. GOMR REPS, WHO HAD NO DOCUMENTS IN HAND OTHER THAN ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF 107.1 MILLION FMG (\$428,400), TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF EMBASSY'S EVIDENCE WHICH THEY AGREED WAS VIRTUALLY CONCLUSIVE. THEY INDICATED MATTER IS DROPPED AS ISSUE IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. DID, HOWEVER, INDICATE THEY WOULD SEARCH ARCHIVES FURTHER FOR RECORD OF PAYMENT AND ASKED EMBASSY TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION THAT CHECK FOR \$428 THOUSAND PRESENTED BY CHARGE WALKER TO MIN EQUIP AND COMM LECHAT ON 20OCT69 HAD ACTUALLY BEEN CASHED.

3. FONMIN REP THEN CITED USG'S RECOGNITION AND PAYMENT OF "COMMUNICATIONS ARREARS" AS EXAMPLE OF USG GOOD FAITH AND WAS CERTAIN THIS WAS PRECEDENT FOR PAYING ARREARS DUE ON LAND. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT EVENTUAL FIXING BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF PAYMENT FOR POINT-TO-POINT COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN CLEARLY SPECIFIED IN CLAUSE (3)B OF 1967 AGREEMENT. SUCH, HOWEVER, WAS NOT THE CASE AS REGARDS NASA USE OF MALAGASY PUBLIC LANDS. IF EVENTUAL FIXING OF PAYMENT HAD BEEN FORESEEN BY GOMR AND USG AT TIME OF ORIGINAL NEGOTIATIONS, PRESUMABLY A SIMILAR CLAUSE WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED. ON CONTRARY, ACCORDING OUR RECORDS (STATE 183 OF 18 SEPT 1963), LATE FONMIN SYLLA HAD SPECIFICALLY TOLD AMB FERGUSON GOMR DEFINITELY UNWILLING COLLECT RENTAL REAL ESTATE USED NASA STATION. CHARGE THEN REVIEWED LATEST USG POSITION (REF A).

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OMB-01 /122 W

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R 040800Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5838  
INFO NASA HEADQUARTERS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TANANARIVE 1688/2

4. FONMIN REP FIRST COUNTERED WITH ARGUMENTS SUCH AS (1) GOMR WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE INSISTED ON INCLUDING PHRASE ON "MAKING LAND AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE" HAD THAT BEEN THE THEN GOVT'S INTENTION; (2) PERHAPS REASON THAT MENTION OF PAYMENT NOT INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL TEXT WAS THE EXACT SITE HAD NOT BEEN CHOSEN AT TIME OF SIGNING. WHEN ASKED WHY SUBSEQUENT GOMR NOTES (E.G. SETTING OUT EXACTLY WHAT LAND COULD BE USED AND WHAT NASA'S RESPONSIBILITIES WERE TO PRIVATE OWNERS) HAD NOT MENTIONED PAYMENT FOR USE OF PUBLIC LANDS, HIS ONLY ANSWER WAS THAT PREVIOUS GOVT HAD COMMITTED A LOT OF ERRORS. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT, IN LIGHT FRANK DISAGREEMENT OVER WHAT ORIGINAL NEGOTIATORS HAD INTENDED, WE SHOULD ASSURE THAT FUTURE AGREEMENT BE SPECIFIC ON SUBJECT OF WHAT, IF ANYTHING, IS OWED FOR WHAT. FONMIN REP REITERATED GOMR CONVINCED ORIGINAL USG NEGOTIATORS WERE ACTING IN GOOD FAITH.

5. FONMIN REP THEN PROPOSED THAT CHARGE SPELL OUT AGAIN IN DETAIL LATEST USG POSITION SINCE HE WISHES TO REPORT IT WITH CAREFUL PRECISION TO HIS GOVT. CHARGE THEN READ TRANSLATION PARAS B & C OF REFTEL A. MALAGASY SIDE OBVIOUSLY VERY INTERESTED. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHAT USG THINKS "REASONABLE" RENT WOULD BE, CHARGE SAID USG ASSUMED THAT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS ON BASIS ALTERNATIVE USES OF RURAL LAND. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED  
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GOMR PROPOSAL. FONMIN REP MENTIONED GOMR EMBASSY/WASH'S DIP NOTE (REF D) AND POINTED OUT GOMR HAD ALREADY GONE ON RECORD THAT RATE BASED PURELY ON AGRICULTURAL USE OF LAND WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT BUT SUGGESTED COMPROMISE FIGURE MIGHT BE WORKED OUT. NEGOTIATIONS THEN ADJOURNED UNTIL DEC 10.

6. COMMENT: BY ITS OBVIOUS INTEREST IN IDEA OF SYMBOLIC PAYMENT AND "REASONABLE RENT" PLUS CONCERN OVER POTENTIAL EFFECT OF RENTAL PAYMENT ON TANA STATION BUDGET AND SIZE OF WORK FORCE, IT SEEMED QUITE EVIDENT GOMR DEL INCOMPROMISING MOOD. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOMR MAY ACCEPT FIRST TWO CONCEPTS BUT THAT THERE WILL BE ATTEMPT TO GET AGREED SYMBOLIC PAYMENT AND RENTAL FEE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN 2,000 FMG/HECTARE/YR. CHARGE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS AGAIN USG'S SINCERE DESIRE TO ACCELERATE MALAGASIZATION, AND MALAGASY NEGOTIATORS CERTAINLY GOT IMPRESSION MALAGASIZATION PROGRAM COULD BE HINDERED SERIOUSLY IF UNREASONABLE RENTAL PAYMENT REQUIRED. CHARGE DECIDED, IN LIGHT APPARENT GOMR WILLINGNESS TO SEEK COMPROMISE, ARGUMENT CONTAINED IN LAST SENTENCE PARA D REFTEL A SHOULD BE HELD IN RESERVE FOR TIME BEING. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT AT LEAST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS GOMR

HAS CHANCE TO REACT OFFICIALLY TO POSITION OUTLINED REF A, USG  
SHOULD NOT BUDGE. WE ARE, AS PLANNED, CONTINUING HOLD SURPLUS  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PENDING OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS.  
END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUEST: CONTINUE SEARCH FOR DOCUMENTATION PAYMENT  
\$428,000 COMPLETED.  
MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRACKING STATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, DEBT REPAYMENTS, RENTS, GOVERNMENT DEBTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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